Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Then why should he be punished ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—It is not like a criminal prosecution. It is only a case of strong suspicion.

Punishment of a salt peon.

248. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) the date on which salt peon No. 115 Pappu was first entertained in the Department;

(2) how long did he serve in the department;

(3) was he suspended and dismissed; if so, for what reason and when ;

(4) were there any other complaints against him before that ;

(5) were enquiries made before dismissal ; if so, who conducted the enquiry ;

(6) was he allowed to cross-examine the witnesses;

(7) who was appointed in his place and the native place of the new man ;

(8) the number of peons in the Department who had put in continued service without break of more than 5 months at the time of the new appointment;

(9) had this new man any previous experience ;

(10) did peon Pappu petition the Superintendent to reconsider his case; if so, what action was taken ;

(11) did he again petition the Diwan and what was the result ?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(1) 3rd Meenam 1076.

(2) Till 19th Meenam 1102, *i. e.*, 25 years 11 months and 13 days.

(3) He was suspended until further orders with effect from 20th Meenam 1102 and subsequently dismissed from service with effect from the very same date. He was accused of being instrumental in sending up a petition against his immediate superior, the range aminadar.

(4) No, but he had three entries in the defaulter sheet, *viz.*, a fine of annas 4 and two warnings.

(5) Yes. My predecessor, Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, conducted the enquiry.

(6) Yes, but in a statement taken from him the peon said that he did not want to cross-examine the witnesses or to adduce evidence on his behalf.

(7) V. Govinda Thandan, whose native place is Aylore near Nemmara.

(8) 23.

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(9) He has no previous experience in this Department.

(10) No, and hence no action was taken.

(11) Yes. It was sent to me for remarks and on my recommendation the Diwan was pleased to cancel the dismissal order and grant him the pension he is entitled to under the rules.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(8). The answer is '23'. There were 23 peons already in the service who had put in five months. I want to know why a new man was appointed.

Mr. C. V. Antony.—They were in the service and as such no injustice was done to them.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was not this peon made permanent?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—No.

Auction sales in the Excise Department.

249. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly lay on the Table statistics showing the results of the auction sales conducted up-to-date by the present Superintendent of Excise since he became the Superintendent or in his immediate presence, quoting against each the results of similar auction sales conducted by the Superintendent or in his immediate presence in the years 1102 and 1103?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Vide table appended (*Appendix I.*).

Excise Committee Report.

250. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government have passed orders on the report of the Excise Committee;

(b) what is the delay in passing the orders;

(c) whether the report will be submitted for the consideration of the Legislative Council before orders are passed by the Government thereon; and if not, what is the reason for not doing it?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(a) No.

(b) and (c). The report is under the consideration of the Government. So also is the question of placing it in the Council before orders are passed on it.

251. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how long it has been since the Excise Committee submitted its report to the Government;

(b) what action has been taken by the Government on the report;

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